

a*70-4

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70, Chapter 4,
relative to stocking certain fish in certain waters of the
state.

WHEREAS, the striped bass, alewife and hybrids (Cherokee bass) are saltwater exotic species, or deviations thereof, that are not natural to Tennessee fresh water reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, such fish were introduced into Norris Reservoir without proper and/or complete environmental assessments or an environmental impact statement having been prepared; and

WHEREAS, such introductions have occurred without open public hearing procedures, thus denying the general public the right of meaningful input and to adequately voice concerns; and

WHEREAS, these exotic species have had a detrimental effect upon native gamefish species through competition for forage and through habitat exclusion; and

WHEREAS, numerous publications provide evidence that such exotics do prey upon and are extremely detrimental to trout; and

WHEREAS, up to ninety percent (90%) of area sportsmen believe these exotics to be detrimental to indigenous gamefish and their habitat and therefore do not want them in Norris Reservoir; now, therefore:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70, Chapter 4, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section ___. Notwithstanding any provision of law, rule or regulation, or proclamation of the agency or commission, no striped bass, alewife, or hybrid (Cherokee bass) shall be stocked by such agency or its agents in Norris Lake, that portion of the Powell and Clinch Rivers above Norris Lake or in that portion of the Clinch River which is no more that ten (10) miles downstream from Norris Dam.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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